

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 11, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007–08 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1620

Introduced by Assembly Member Arambula

February 23, 2007

An act to add ~~Section 13997.3 to~~ *and repeal Section 13997.3 of the* Government Code, relating to economic development.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1620, as amended, Arambula. California Clean Technology Services Unit.

Existing law establishes in the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency various economic development programs with the purpose of promoting economic development in California.

This bill would, *until January 1, 2013*, establish the California Clean Technology Services Unit within the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency to promote the development of new technologies and products that meet the environmental objectives of the state, to facilitate the ability of businesses to bring clean technologies to California's market, and to coordinate with ~~specified~~ *other state agencies entities* in order to encourage clean technologies that meet the state's environmental goals and standards, as provided. This bill would also require the unit to report annually to the Legislature with regard to its activities promoting clean technology within the state.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Renewable energy and other clean technologies have the
4 potential to be significant sources of job creation, with a range of
5 workforce needs by job function and in different technology areas,
6 and with impacts in other sectors of the economy. The multiplier
7 in the renewable energy sector alone is large, often exceeding
8 direct employment numbers.

9 (b) According to an Electric Power Research Institute study,
10 sponsored by the California Energy Commission's Public Interest
11 Energy Research program, renewable energy technologies can
12 make California's electricity more reliable, affordable, and cleaner.

13 (c) The emergence of markets for clean technology over the
14 past decade has been driven by a confluence of economic trends,
15 technological advancements, and resource constraints that have
16 situated clean technologies for continual growth. Price volatility
17 in key commodity markets, like gas and oil, has resulted in
18 producers, consumers, and investors looking for new technologies
19 that will increase resource efficiency. The environmental benefits
20 of clean technologies make them an intrinsic part of a sustainable
21 economy. The sustainability of clean technology has made it a
22 rapidly emerging investment area, increasingly drawing more
23 interest from the venture capital community.

24 (d) In 2003, California received 63 percent of all venture capital
25 invested in the United States semiconductor industry, more than
26 50 percent of venture capital invested in computers and medical
27 devices, and 43 percent of all venture capital in the country. Yet
28 the state only received 31 percent of United States clean technology
29 investments and only 29 percent of all venture capital clean
30 technology investment in North America.

31 (e) California is well positioned to take advantage of the new
32 clean technology market. Other states, however, are also developing
33 their own clean technology clusters, including Connecticut,
34 Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Texas.
35 Europe and Japan are also successfully building clean technology
36 clusters. Germany and Japan have usurped California's
37 once-leading position in solar and wind energy through targeted
38 governmental policies and initiatives. If California is to remain

1 competitive as a clean technology location, targeted policies are
2 needed at the state level.

3 SEC. 2. Section 13997.3 is added to the Government Code, to
4 read:

5 13997.3. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that it is in the
6 public interest to aid, counsel, and assist, insofar as possible, the
7 interests of entrepreneurs and inventors in order to encourage the
8 development of new technologies and products that meet the
9 environmental objectives of the state, including, but not limited
10 to, advances in renewable energy, recycled products, equipment
11 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and other clean technology
12 applications.

13 (b) In order to advance the state's environmental goals and
14 objectives, the California Clean Technology Services Unit is
15 established within the Business, Transportation and Housing
16 Agency. The California Clean Technology Services Unit shall
17 perform the following functions and activities:

18 (1) Represent the Secretary of Business, Transportation and
19 Housing before the business community, research institutions, and
20 the finance and investment industry on issues related to the research
21 and production of clean technologies.

22 (2) Act as a liaison between the business community, research
23 institutions, and state agencies on issues affecting science and
24 technology-based firms, particularly in the area of clean
25 technologies.

26 (3) Facilitate the ability of businesses to bring innovative clean
27 technologies to market by assisting firms in understanding
28 California's evolving statutory and regulatory standards relating
29 to carbon and other greenhouse gases.

30 ~~(4) (A) Work in coordination with state regulatory boards and~~
31 ~~commissions to maximize each agency's efforts to support an~~

32 *(4) Work in coordination with other state entities to maximize*
33 *the state's efforts to support an innovative and entrepreneurial*
34 *environment that encourages the development of new and cleaner*
35 *technologies that meet and exceed the state's environmental goals*
36 *and standards.*

37 ~~(B) The Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing, the~~
38 ~~Secretary for Environmental Protection, and the Secretary of the~~
39 ~~Resources Agency shall consider colocation of resources, enhanced~~
40 ~~Internet tools, cross-training of staff, and other methods to assist~~

~~inventors of new clean technologies in understanding the state's regulatory framework for purposes of developing new products that meet or exceed those standards.~~

(c) The California Clean Technology Services Unit shall annually report to the Legislature regarding its activities in promoting clean technology development in the state. The report shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) The number and types of firms assisted by the California Clean Technology Services Unit.

(2) A summary of issues addressed by the California Clean Technology Services Unit.

(3) Recommendations on enhancing California's position with regard to science- and technology-related businesses.

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2013, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2013, deletes or extends that date.